

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONTEV 04197 311923Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
/040 W

-----004098 010526Z /12

R 311835Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4642
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 4197

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, UY
SUBJ: WOLA REPRESENTATIVE'S VISIT TO URUGUAY

REF: STATE 192235

1. JO MARIE GRIESGRABER, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WASHINGTON OFFICE FOR LATIN AMERICA (WOLA) COMPLETED A SEVEN-DAY VISIT TO MONTEVIDEO ON AUGUST 30. HER IMPRESSIONS, FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE INTERVIEWS AND MEETINGS WITH A RANGE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL FIGURES, WERE BLEAK.

2. MS. GRIESGRABER MET WITH NUMEROUS PROMINENT FIGURES OF THE BLANCE, COLORADO, AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, THE ARCHBISHOP AND OTHER CHURCH FIGURES, ECONOMISTS, UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS, AS WELL AS NUMEROUS WIVES AND PARENTS OF PERSONS CURRENTLY IMPRISONED OR WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED. HER PROGRAM WAS LARGELY ARRANGED BY POLITICAL ALLIES OF THE FERREIRA FAMILY.

3. THE SUM OF HER IMPRESSIONS WAS NEGATIVE. SHE FOUND AN "ATMOSPHERE OF FEAR", WITH PEOPLE EVERYWHERE AFRAID TO SPEAK OUT. SHE SAW KEY INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THE EDUCATIONAL AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS, AS WEAK AND TWISTED IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MONTEV 04197 311923Z

THEIR FUNCTIONS. SHE FOUND THE CHURCH DIVIDED AND OVER-
WHELMED WITH ITS BURDEN. SHE WAS UNABLE TO UNDER-
STAND THE RATIONALE FOR WHAT SHE SAW AS THE GOU'S "HEAVY-
HANDED CONTROL" OF ALL WALKS OF LIFE, AND SHE WAS MOVED BY
THE QUIET SUFFERING OF FAMILIES WHOSE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN
LONG IMPRISONED. SHE WAS TOLD THAT DISAPPEARANCES CONTINUE
AND WAS PROVIDED A LIST OF FIVE PERSONS WHO HAVE ALLEGEDLY

DISAPPEARED SINCE JUNE 14. IN SHORT, SHE LEFT WITH A BLEAK VIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION AND OF PROSPECTS FOR CHANGE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

4. MS. GRIESGRABER APPEARED TO CONDUCT HER VISIT WITH A GENERALLY OPEN MIND AND A DISPOSITION TO LISTEN TO ALL POINTS OF VIEW. UNFORTUNATELY, SHE HAD NO CONTACTS WITH THE GOU, SIMPLY BECAUSE THERE IS NO APPROPRIATE OFFICE TO RECEIVE OR TO DIALOGUE WITH SUCH PEOPLE.

5. MS. GRIESGRABER HAD THREE MEETINGS WITH EMBASSY'S POLITICAL OFFICER, INCLUDING A TWO-HOUR DEBRIEFING PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. AT THAT TIME, SHE PROVIDED EXTENSIVE DETAILS ON HER RANGE OF CONVERSATIONS, AND ALSO THE LIST OF ALLEGED DISAPPEARANCES. EMBASSY IS SEEKING INFORMATION REGARDING THE FATE OF THESE PERSONS, AND ALSO OF SEVERAL OTHERS WHOSE FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE APPROACHED US INDEPENDENTLY.
PEZZULLO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, TRAVEL REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MONTEV04197
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770316-0134
Format: TEL
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977084/aaaaacqc.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: df83fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 192235
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1534646
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WOLA REPRESENTATIVE'S VISIT TO URUGUAY
TAGS: SHUM, OTRA, UY, WOLA, (GRIESGRABER, JO MARIE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/df83fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009